We Claim:

1. A device for removing debris from a chain comprising:

a control circuit;

a housing defining an aperture passing through the housing, the aperture having a size such that a chain can pass through the housing;

an electromagnet located within the housing electrically connected to the control circuit; and

a cleaning medium within the housing in proximity to the aperture,

wherein the control circuit can energize the electromagnet in a series of discrete pulses to assist the cleaning medium in removing debris from the chain.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the cleaning medium includes bristles.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein the bristles are thermoplastic.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein the bristles are nylon, polypropylene or polyethylene.

5. The device of claim 1 further including a cable attached to a fitting to maintain the device at a specific depth under the water and to provide power to the electromagnet.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a material that is capable of extending the magnet flux.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the material is a ferrous metal.

8. The device of claim 1 wherein the control circuit includes a circuit to switch off the electromagnet after the passage of a predetermined time period.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein the device further includes a spring biased pin that engages the chain when the chain is being lowed

10. The device of claim 1 wherein the control circuit includes a circuit to delay energizing the electromagnet for a specified time period after the device has been actuated.

11. A method for the removal of debris from a chain comprising the steps of:

passing the chain through a housing wherein the housing includes an electromagnet and a cleaning medium;

energizing the electromagnet in a pulsed fashion as the chain passes through the housing; and

contacting the chain with the cleaning medium.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the cleaning medium includes bristles

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the bristles are thermoplastic.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the bristles are nylon, polypropylene or polyethylene.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the method includes the additional step of maintaining the housing at a specified depth under the water while the anchor is deployed.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the energizing step is delayed for a specified period of time after the passing step is started.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the energizing step is stopped after a specified period of time after the passing step is started